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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
302 Post Office Building, Orlando, Florida.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1950

March 22, 1950

FLORIDA:

If Florida farmers carry out their present plans for 1950, the acreage of field crops, will in the aggregate, show a small increase over 1949. Increases are indicated for corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, tobacco and cowpeas. Oats plantings are the same as last year, while peanuts alone for all purposes show a small reduction. The corn acreage is expected to cover 712,000 acres - 2 percent greater than a year ago. Oats at 137,000 acres, mainly for grazing, is the same as planted in 1949. A 14 percent increase in sweet potato planting intentions raises the acreage for 1950 to 16,000 acres. Irish potato acreage at 25,600 acres for 1950 represents a 10 percent increase over 1949 with most of the increase in the commercial acreage. In line with the increase in allotted acreage, Type 14 (flue) growers are planning to increase their acreage one percent to 19,100 acres. Shaded tobacco in the Georgia-Florida area shows an increase of 200 acres to 5,300 acres for the area (Florida 4,300, Georgia 1,000 acres). Peanuts planted alone acreage intentions show a drop of 5 percent to 200,000 acres.

Crops are being sown under generally favorable conditions. Rains in March have been beneficial.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR FLORIDA - 1950

Crop	Average 1939-48		Acreage Planted		1950 as Percent of 1949
	Acreage Planted	Yield per Acre	1949	Indicated 1950	
	Thousands	Bu./Acre	Planted Acres	Acres	
Corn	723	10.4 Bu.	698	712	102
Oats	92	5.8 Bu.	137	137	100
Tame Hay a/	120	.54 Ton	88	83	94
Irish Potatoes	31.9	130 Bu.	23.3	25.6	110
Sweet Potatoes	17	65 Bu.	14	16	114
Tobacco, all a/	21.1	911 Lb.	23	23.4	102
Tobacco, Type 14	17.8	884 Lb.	18.9	19.1	101
Tobacco, Type 62	2.9	1049 Lb.	4.1	4.3	105
Cowpeas	28		26	29	110
Peanuts b/	260		210	200	95

a/ Harvested acreage.

b/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

PROSPECTIVE ACREAGE FOR THE UNITED STATES - 1950

	PLANTED ACREAGES			
	Average	1949	Indicated	1950 as
	1939-48	1949	1950	pct. of 1949
	Thousands			Percent
Corn, all	89,825	87,910	82,765	94.1
All spring wheat	18,072	22,559	19,727	87.4
Duram	2,623	3,693	3,260	88.3
Other spring	15,450	18,866	16,467	87.3
Oats	42,891	44,525	47,964	107.7
Barley	14,713	11,208	13,879	123.8
Flaxseed	3,869	5,199	4,027	77.5
Rice	1,451	1,839	1,645	89.5
Sorghums for all purposes .	16,635	11,754	14,568	123.9
Potatoes	2,718	1,924	1,862	96.8
Sweetpotatoes	690	548	603	110.0
Tobacco a/	1,650	1,626	1,582	97.3
Beans, dry edible	2,022	1,900	1,678	88.3
Peas, dry field	496	367	281	76.6
Soybeans, b/	12,059	11,409	13,500	118.3
Cowpeas, b/	2,241	1,177	1,192	101.5
Peanuts, b/	3,634	2,929	2,570	87.7
Hay, a/	74,470	72,835	75,091	103.1
Sugar Beets	851	769	980	127.4

a/ Acreage harvested

b/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.

GENERAL OUTLOOK

A relatively large acreage of spring-sown crops is in prospect for 1950. The increase in the total of 17 crops (including hay) for which prospective acreages are estimated, is from 274.2 million acres in 1949 to 277.9 million acres this season. In terms of total planted acreage, this increase is more than offset, however, by the large decline in winter wheat seeded last fall. Declines in acreages are large for corn and spring wheat, small for peanuts, dry beans, rice, potatoes and tobacco; all these are crops for which acreage allotments will be in effect in 1950. Other declines are planned in flax and dry peas. But more than offsetting these declines are intended increases in oats, barley, soybeans, sorghums, hay, sugar beets, sweet-potatoes and cowpeas. Spring activities are normal to advanced over most of the country, though checked somewhat by cold March weather. Soil moisture is satisfactory, except in the southern Great Plains. Irrigation water supplies are mostly adequate, the chief exception being in New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada.

ALL CROPS

Principal crops planted or grown in 1950 may total nearly 359 million acres, allowing for duplications and for numerous crops not yet surveyed. This would be about 10½ million acres less than in 1949, also less than in 1948, 1944 and 1943, but would exceed the total in any other year since 1937. The peak period was in 1930-33 when the range was 369.5 to 375.5 million acres.

FEED GRAINS

Feed grains may be planted on nearly 4 million acres more than in 1949, according to present plans. But this 2½ percent increase in acreage may not bring about an increase in production. The prospective acreage of corn is 5 million acres less than planted in 1949, with most of the reduction in the high-yielding Corn Belt and adjacent States, but some offsetting increases in lower-yielding southern States. Furthermore, per acre tonnages of the grains which are being increased are not as large as for corn. Increases of nearly 3½ million acres of oats, over 2½ million acres of barley and nearly 3 million acres of sorghums raise the feed grain aggregate acreage above that of 1949. On the basis of 1944-48 average yields per acre, the prospective 1950 feed grain acreage would produce about 113½ million tons, or 10 percent less than the 126 million tons in 1949. Hay acreage is indicated at about 2½ million acres more than in 1949 and slightly above average. This not only provides for slightly increased numbers of hay-consuming livestock and for replenishing low reserves in some areas, but also absorbs some of the acreage adjustments in other crops. In some areas, it is expected that more than usual amounts of seed may be taken in lieu of later cuttings of hay, and that more meadows may be pastured after hay needs are satisfied.

MISCELLANEOUS

Among the oilseeds, a sharp increase of 18 percent for soybeans is indicated by the prospective 13.5 million acres grown alone, but flax acreage will decline by nearly 1.2 million acres or 22.5 percent, and peanuts by about 359,000 acres, one-eighth below the 1949 level. Tobacco acreage will be only 44,000 acres less than last year, potatoes about 62,000 less, declines of about 3 percent for each. Dry beans are under allotment and the acreage will be down 222,000 acres, about one-eighth, while the reduction of 86,000 acres in dry peas is nearly one-fourth. But sweetpotato acreage may be up 10 percent, cowpeas by 1 percent. The planned increase of 211,000 acres would bring sugar beet acreage up more than a fourth above that of 1949.

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